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MEET...THE MALE MACHINE!

'mazing man™
by Stephen DeStefano & Bob Rozakis!
INKED BY KARL KESEL
LETTERED BY BOB LAPPAN
COLORED BY TOM ZIUKO
EDITED BY ALAN GOLD
the MALE MACHINE
KNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOK
OHMIGOSH-- THE BUILDING'S ON FIRE!
WHAT THE--?! IT'S 12:15 IN THE MORNING!!
IT MUST BE A JOB FOR ME!
G-2012
GOT TO GET OUT, QUI-- GYAHH!
WHO'S THE IDIOT WHO'S-- YOUCHH!
MY DOUBLE STUFFS!

'MAZING MAN 4 Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 'MAZING MAN, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1986 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
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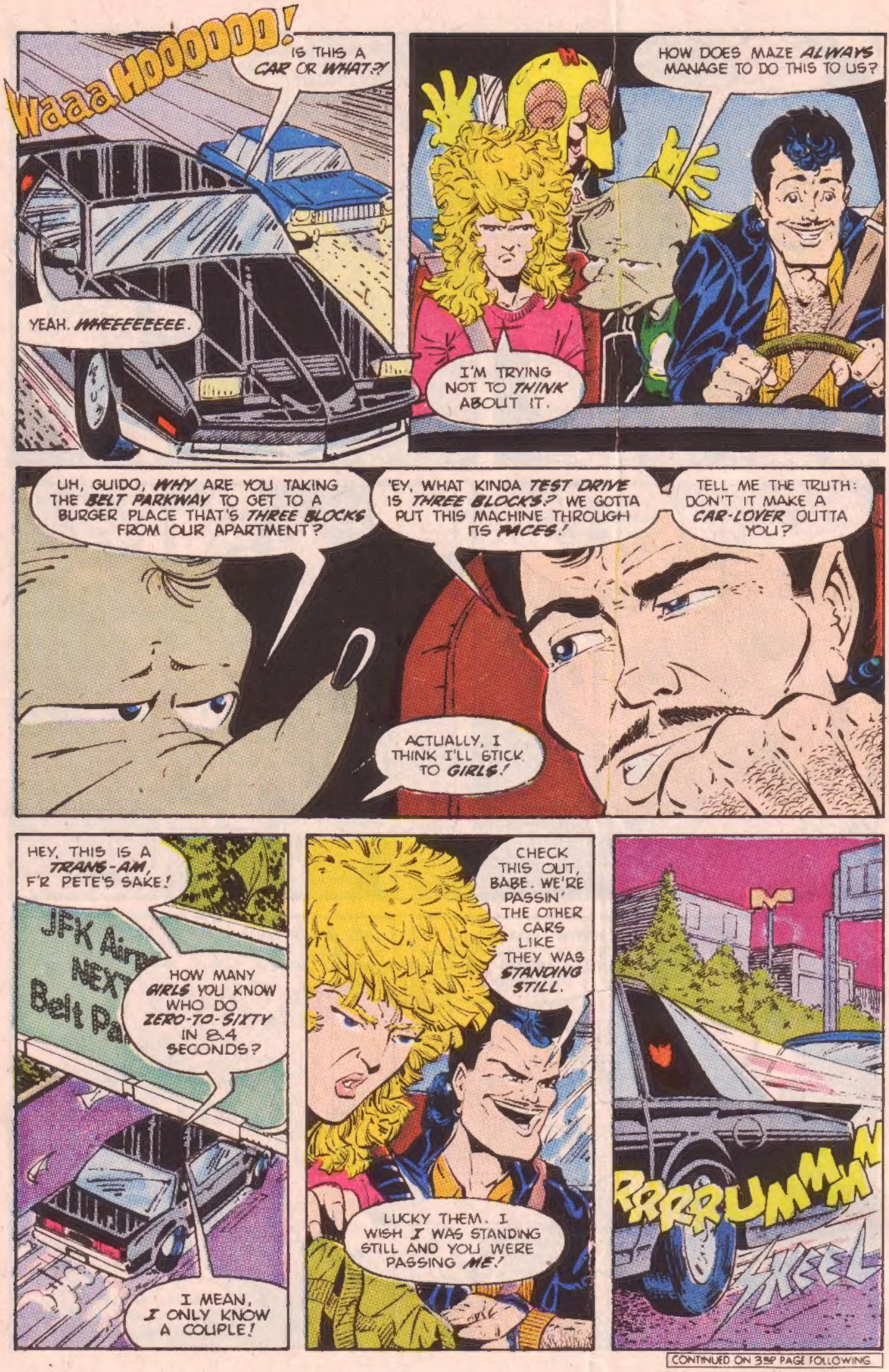
'EY, COME ON IN THERE ALREADY.
I'M GONNA DIE IN THE BLAZING INFERNO BECAUSE MY SISTER WANTS THREE LOCKS ON OUR DOOR!
IT'S GUIDO!
'BOUT TIME. YOU GUYS SURE ARE SOUND SLEEPERS!
THWAK
:SNIF: NO SMOKE YET...WHERE'S THE FIRE?
FIRE? WHUT FIRE?!
HEY, BABE. NICE OUTFIT!
GUESS WHAT?
GUIDO GARIBALDI, YOU IDIOT! IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE--!
HI, GUIDO.
YOU MEAN THERE'S NO FIRE?
IF YOU EVER COMPLIMENT ME ON A JERSEY I'VE BEEN SLEEPING IN AGAIN, I'M GONNA--ARRGH!
YOU AIN'T HEARD THE NEWS YET, DOLL! I GOT WHEELS -- A BRAND-NEW TRANS-AM --
YIPES.
LET'S GET ON THE ROAD!
OW!
YOU NEARLY BEAT DOWN MY DOOR TO TELL US YOU GOT A CAR?!
I KNEW YOU'D WANNA BE THE FIRST TO KNOW.
THE NEXT GUY ON THE LIST IS MY COUSIN VINNIE...
...WHO I HAPPEN TO NOT BE SPEAKING TO...
THAT'S WHY THERE'S TIME FOR A FEW FAST MILES ON THE BELT!

WHAT A PAL.
C'MON, LET'S DRIVE TO BURGER CITY. MY TREAT, OKAY?
BIG SPENDER! BURGER CITY'S CLOSED AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!
NOT THE DRIVE-IN WINDOW!
SO, HUSTLE, PEOPLE-- SHAKE A LEG! YOU AIN'T SITTIN' IN MY NEW CAR DRESSED LIKE THAT!
FORGET IT, GUIDO. I'LL GO ONLY ONE WAY: OVER YOUR DEAD BODY.
TRY ME SOMETIME WHEN THE SUN IS UP.
SAME HERE. ONLY DON'T TRY ME EVER. GOOD NIGHT, CHUMP.
AWWW, COME ON, YOU TWO. IT'LL BE FUN! AND IT MEANS SO MUCH TO GUIDO.
snif
AND SLEEP MEANS SO MUCH TO ME! TAKE A HIKE!
DON'T START UP, MAZE! NOTHING YOU SAY WILL GET ME AND KP DRESSED AND INTO THAT CAR!


Waaa HOOOOOO!
IS THIS A CAR OR WHAT?!
YEAH. WHEEEEEEEE.
HOW DOES MAZE ALWAYS MANAGE TO DO THIS TO US?
I'M TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
UH, GUIDO, WHY ARE YOU TAKING THE BELT PARKWAY TO GET TO A BURGER PLACE THAT'S THREE BLOCKS FROM OUR APARTMENT?
'EY, WHAT KINDA TEST DRIVE IS THREE BLOCKS? WE GOTTA PUT THIS MACHINE THROUGH ITS PACES!
TELL ME THE TRUTH: DON'T IT MAKE A CAR-LOVER OUTTA YOU?
ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL STICK TO GIRLS!
HEY, THIS IS A TRANS-AM, F'R PETE'S SAKE!
JFK Airp
NEXT
Belt Pa
HOW MANY GIRLS YOU KNOW WHO DO ZERO-TO-SIXTY IN 8.4 SECONDS?
I MEAN, I ONLY KNOW A COUPLE!
CHECK THIS OUT, BABE. WE'RE PASSIN' THE OTHER CARS LIKE THEY WAS STANDING STILL.
LUCKY THEM. I WISH I WAS STANDING STILL AND YOU WERE PASSING ME!
RRRRUMMMM
SKEEL

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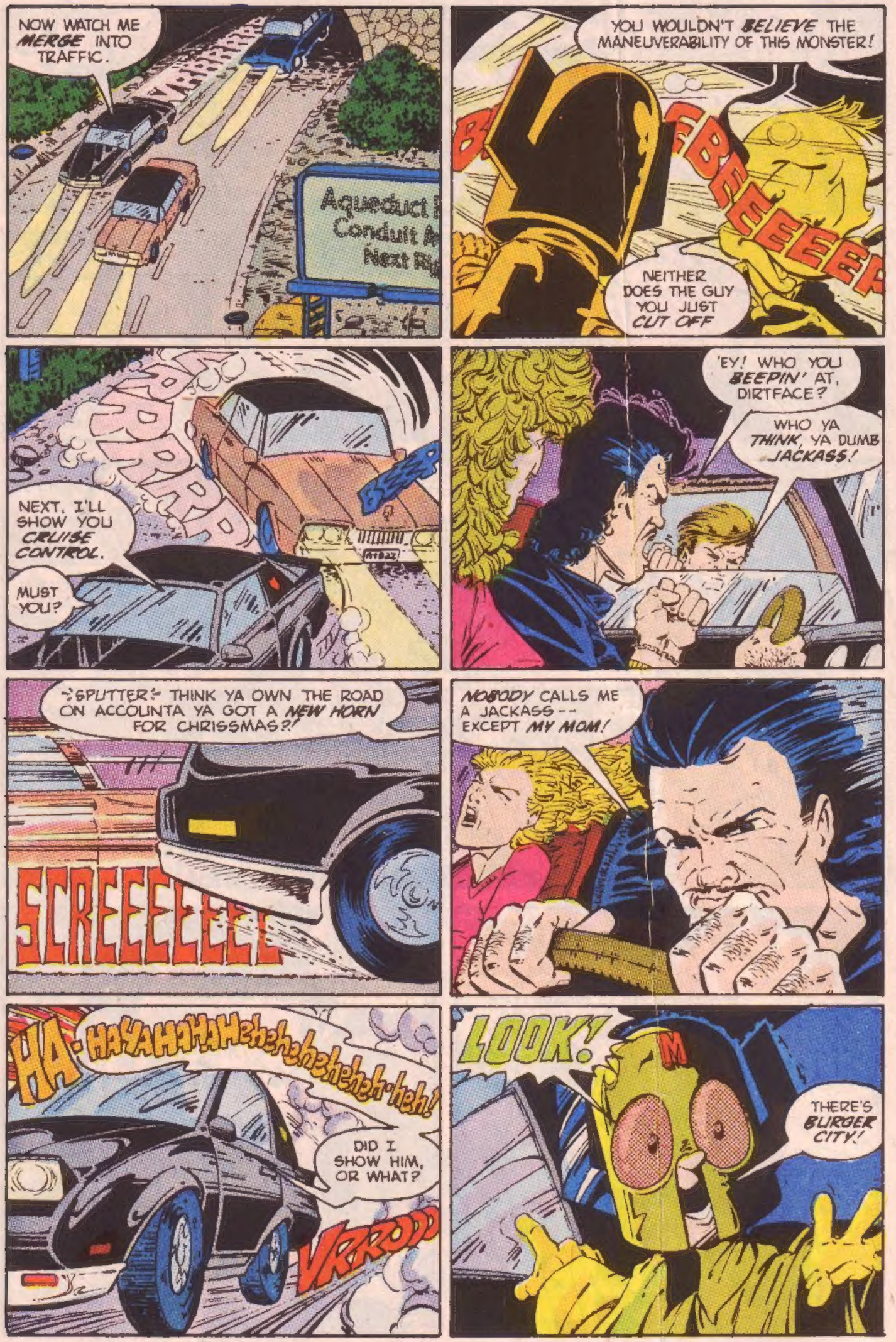
RRROOO OSH

CHECK OUT THESE *FEATURES!* POWER WINDOWS!

CLICK

MRRROOOO


NOW WATCH ME MERGE INTO TRAFFIC.
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE MANEUVERABILITY OF THIS MONSTER!
BEEEEEEP
NEITHER DOES THE GUY YOU JUST CUT OFF
BRRRRP
BEEP
NEXT, I'LL SHOW YOU CRUISE CONTROL.
MUST YOU?
'EY! WHO YOU BEEPIN' AT, DIRTFACE?
WHO YA THINK, YA DUMB JACKASS!
:SPUTTER: THINK YA OWN THE ROAD ON ACCOUNTA YA GOT A NEW HORN FOR CHRISSMAS?!
SCREEEEEEEE
NOBODY CALLS ME A JACKASS -- EXCEPT MY MOM!
HA-HAHAHAHAHEHEHEHEHEH-HEH!
DID I SHOW HIM, OR WHAT?
VRROOM
LOOK!
THERE'S BURGER CITY!

BUP
WHUDIJA THINK?--I WUZ GONNA MISS IT?
EEEEE
SCREEE
KAKK
OOOF!
OWWW!
BONKK!
FRONT DISC BRAKES!
SO...
WHATTA YUZ WANT... PICKLES OR ONIONS?
SHORTLY...
GUIDO, THESE FRENCH FRIES LOOK LIKE THEY'VE BEEN AROUND FOR A WEEK!
NAHHH, JUST SINCE LUNCHTIME. MY BUDDY JOEY SAYS THEY GOTTA THROW 'EM AWAY UNLESS SOMEBODY EATS 'EM--
--DON'TCHA HATE SEEIN' FOOD GO TO WASTE?
OOOOH, I LOVE THIS CAR!
IT'S WORTH EVERY OUNCE OF WORK, SWEAT, AND GUTS THAT WENT INTO BUYIN' IT!
GOTTA REMEMBER TO THANK MY POP FOR SPENDIN' ALL HIS HARD-EARNED DOUGH ON ME...
MAYBE I'LL GET HIM A SET O' KEYS MADE TO IT...
YAWN
NOT THAT I'D EVER LET HIM DRIVE IT!

I'LL NEVER FORGET WHEN HE HANDED ME THE KEYS. "GUIDO," HE GOES, "LISTEN TO ME GOOD. I'M GONNA MAKE THIS SIMPLE FOR YOU.
"A MAN IS A CAR," HE SAYS. "A CAR IS A MAN."
THEN HE SLAPS ME ON THE BACK OF THE HEAD SO'S IT'LL SINK IN, LIKE.
"STAY AWAY FROM WOMEN WITH MOTOR OIL ALL OVER THEIR HANDS," HE SAYS. I NEVER KNOW WHAT MY OL' MAN IS TALKING ABOUT.
THEN HE PLACES A SHINY NEW SILVER DOLLAR, SEE, IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT. "THIS IS GOOD LUCK," HE GOES. "TELL YOUR FRIENDS, THIS IS WHAT THEY GOTTA DO, TOO."
IS THAT WHERE YOU GOT THE MONEY? I THOUGHT YOUR PIGGY BANK BROKE.
FIRST THING TOMORROW, I'LL GO TO THE BANK FOR A SILVER DOLLAR.
RIGHT NOW, THOUGH, ALL I WANT TO DO IS GO HOME AND WASH MY HANDS.
GOOD IDEA. I'LL CATCH YOU LATER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? AREN'T YOU DRIVING US HOME?
K-VROOOOOOOOOM
ARE YOU KIDDING? AND LET YOU PUT THEM GREASY PAWS ALL OVER MY NEW UPHOLSTERY?!
VRRRRRRRRUM
I SWEAR, IF HE WASN'T BRAIN-DEAD ALREADY, I'D KILL THAT MAN!
GUIDO SURE DOES LOVE HIS CAR, DOESN'T HE?
SHUT UP, MAZE.
BEEP BEEP
END OF PART ONE

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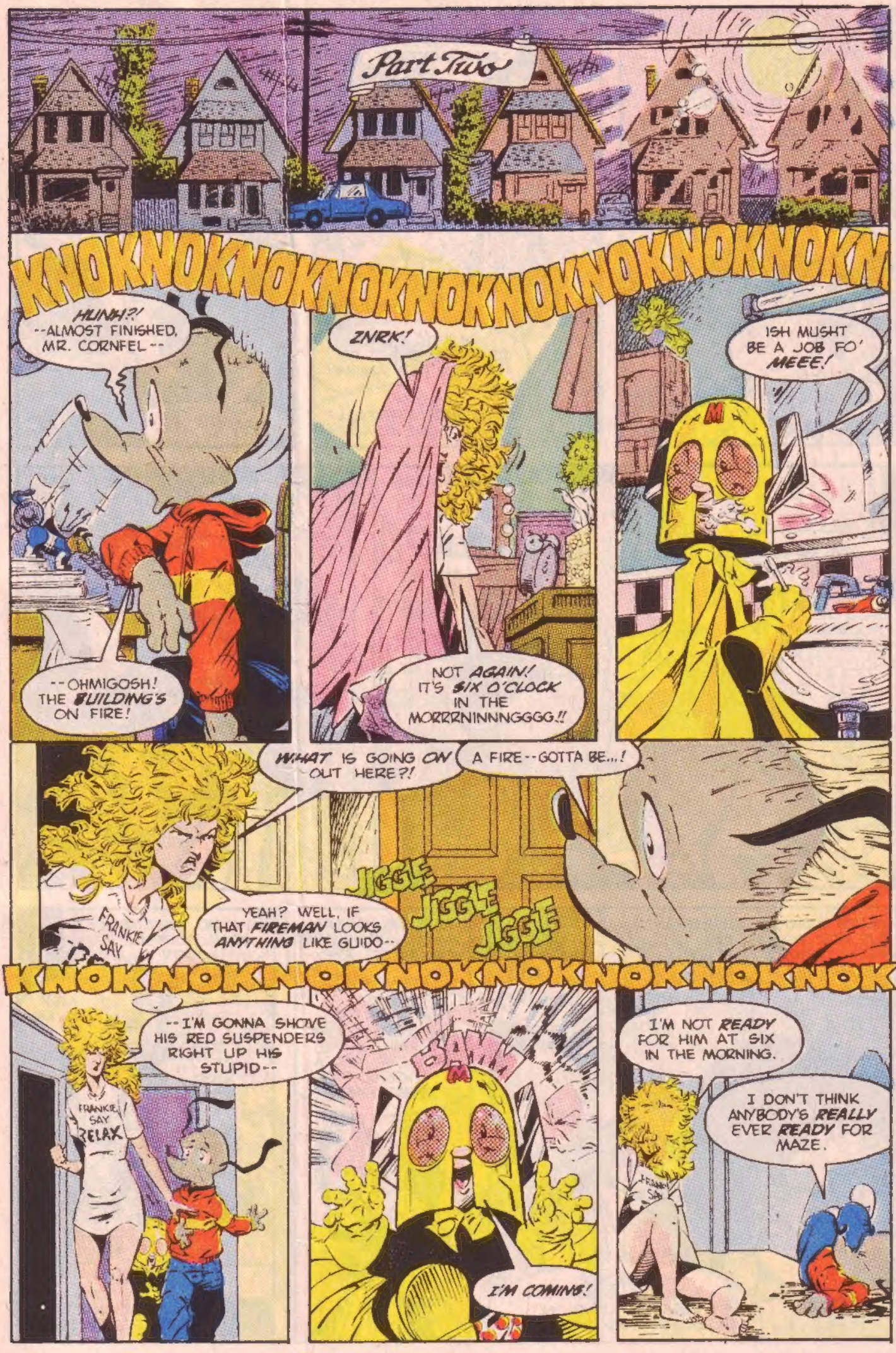
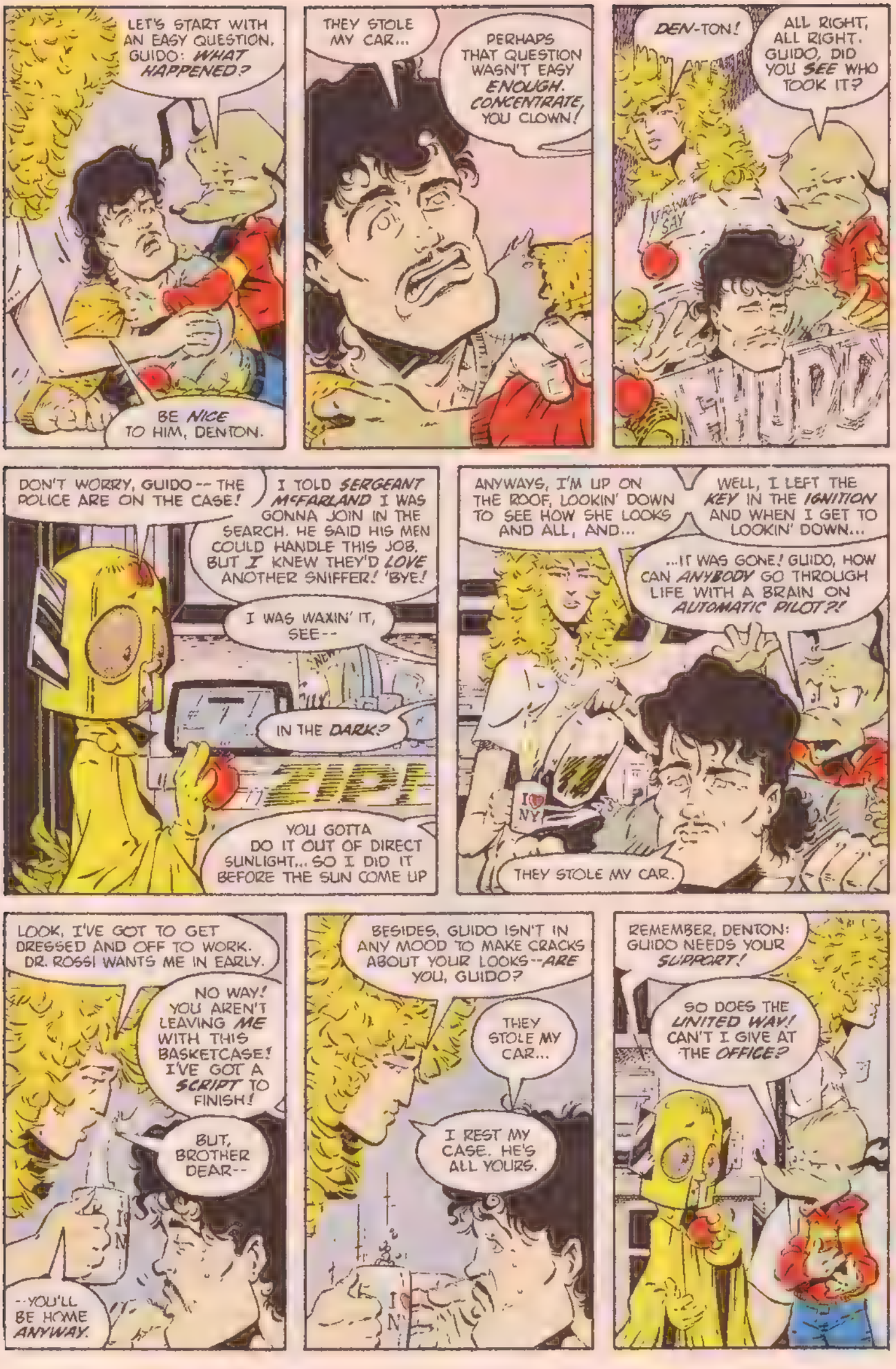
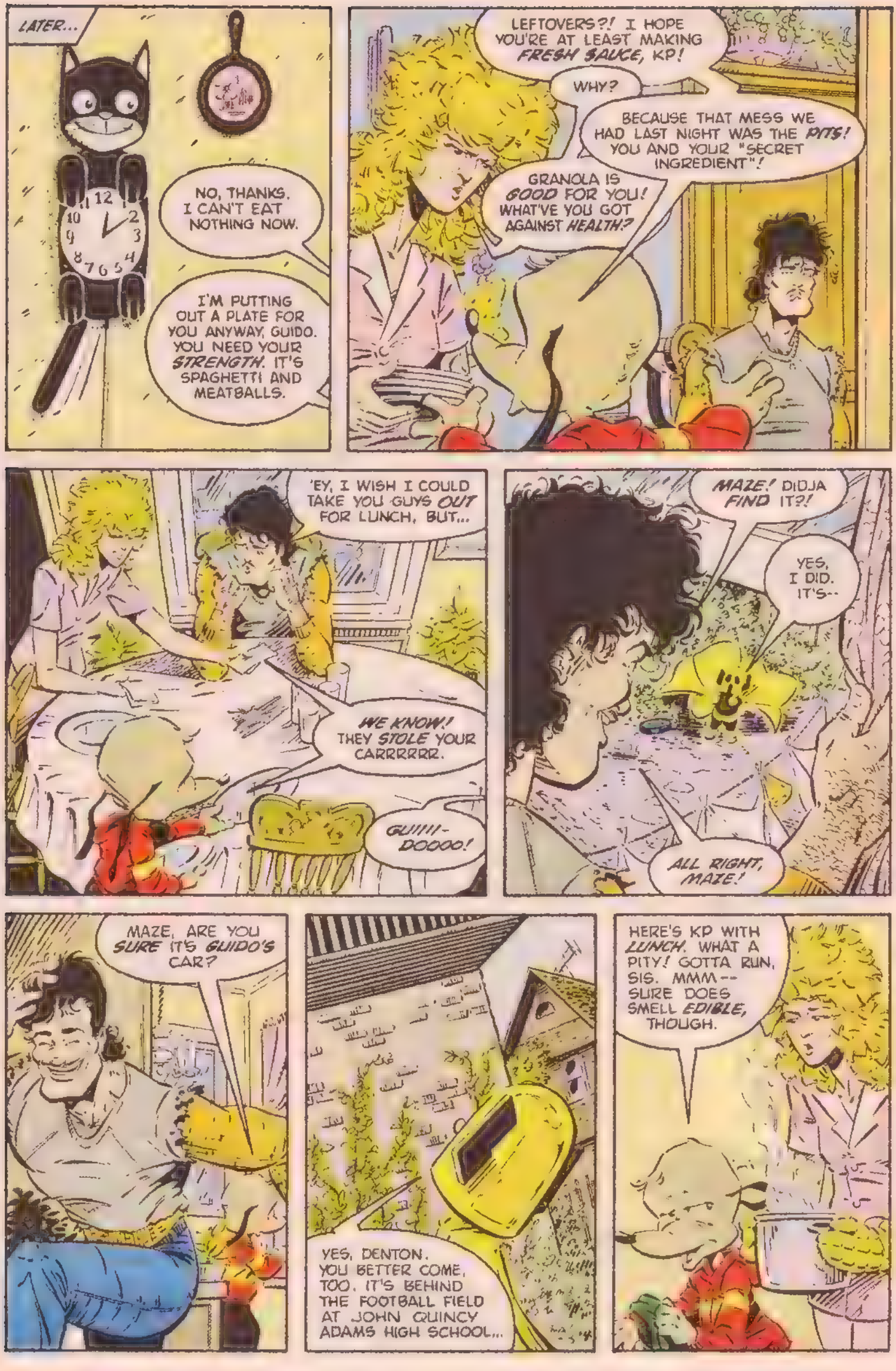

Part Two
KNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKN
HUNH?! --ALMOST FINISHED, MR. CORNFEL--
--OHMIGOSH! THE BUILDING'S ON FIRE!
ZNRK!
NOT AGAIN! IT'S SIX O'CLOCK IN THE MORRRNINNNGGGG!!
ISH MUSHT BE A JOB FO' MEEE!
WHAT IS GOING ON OUT HERE?!
A FIRE--GOTTA BE...!
YEAH? WELL, IF THAT FIREMAN LOOKS ANYTHING LIKE GUIDO--
JIGGLE JIGGLE JIGGLE
KNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOKNOK
FRANKIE SAY RELAX
--I'M GONNA SHOVE HIS RED SUSPENDERS RIGHT UP HIS STUPID--
BAM
I'M COMING!
I'M NOT READY FOR HIM AT SIX IN THE MORNING.
I DON'T THINK ANYBODY'S REALLY EVER READY FOR MAZE.

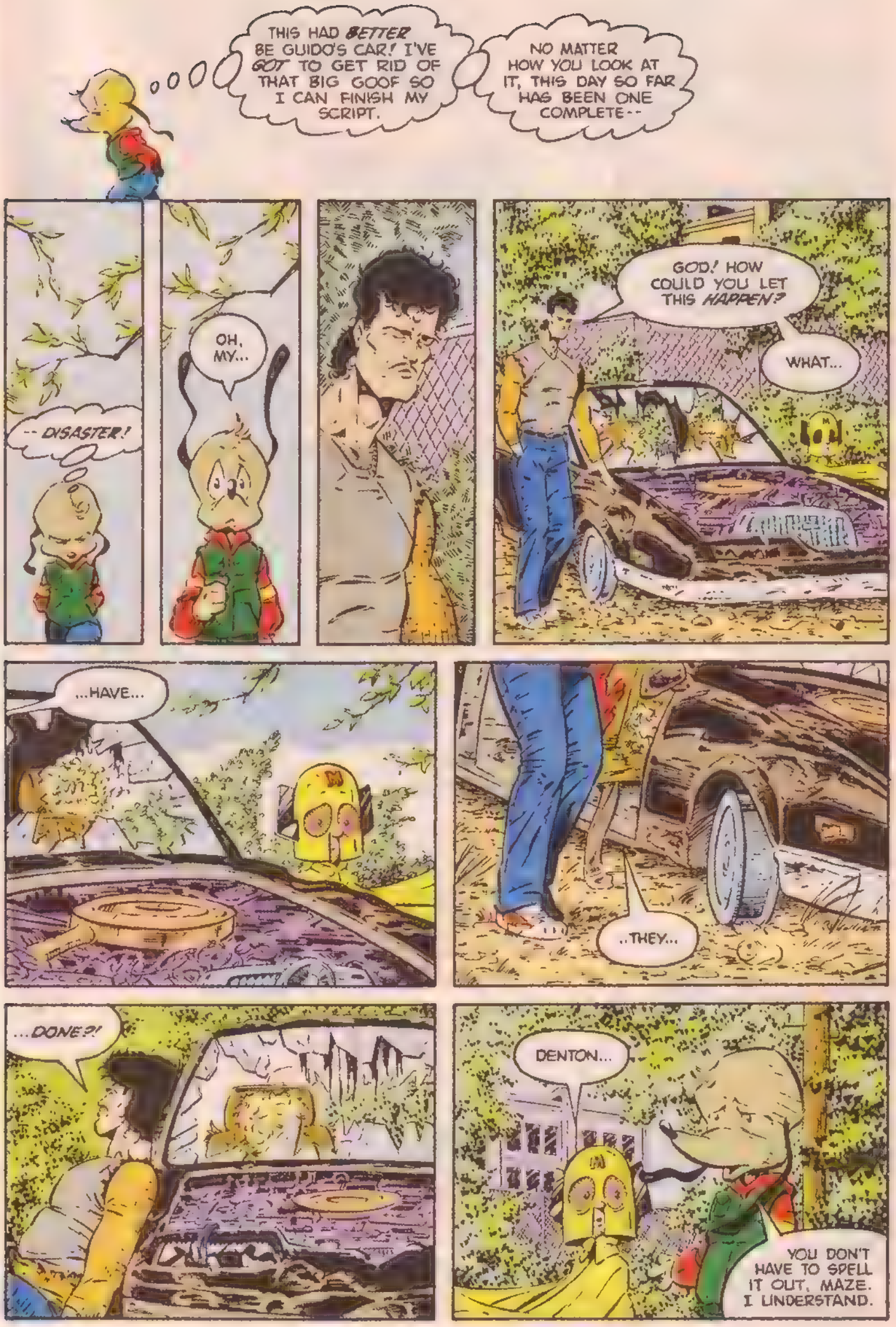
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
...'EY, COME ON IN THERE...
IT'S GUIDO!
I KNEW IT! WHAT IS IT NOW? TIME FOR OUR DAYTIME TEST DRIVE?
...MY CAR...
GUIDO! I HATE YOUR CAR! I SPIT ON ITS SHINY NEW FINISH!
IT'S SIX IN THE MORNING, FOOL! CUT US SOME SLACK!
THEY... STOLE MY--
WHAT--?! YOUR CAR?
A JOB FOR ME!
POOR GUIDO. COME IN THE KITCHEN--
--AND SIT DOWN--
WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO?
CALL THE POLICE, OF COURSE!
--ON A CHAIR--?
BAM
THAT'S RIGHT, SERGEANT. THE CAR WAS STOLEN FROM GUIDO GARIBALDI.
EXCELLENT...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM, KP. HE'S USED TO LYING ON TABLES...AND BARS...AND FLOORS...
ME? I'M 'MAZING MAN...APOSTROPHE -EM-AY-ZEE-EYE--
RIGHT! THAT'S ME! NO... I NEVER GO OUT AND FIGHT CRIME UNTIL I'VE HAD A GOOD BREAKFAST!
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR COFFEE, GUIDO?
JUST FILL 'ER UP...
OHH... WE'RE IN FOR AN IN-TERESTING DAY.


LET'S START WITH AN EASY QUESTION, GUIDO: WHAT HAPPENED?
BE NICE TO HIM, DENTON.
THEY STOLE MY CAR...
PERHAPS THAT QUESTION WASN'T EASY ENOUGH. CONCENTRATE, YOU CLOWN!
DEN-TON!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. GUIDO, DID YOU SEE WHO TOOK IT?
DON'T WORRY, GUIDO -- THE POLICE ARE ON THE CASE!
I TOLD SERGEANT McFARLAND I WAS GONNA JOIN IN THE SEARCH. HE SAID HIS MEN COULD HANDLE THIS JOB. BUT I KNEW THEY'D LOVE ANOTHER SNIFFER! 'BYE!
I WAS WAXIN' IT, SEE--
IN THE DARK?
ZIP!
YOU GOTTA DO IT OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT... SO I DID IT BEFORE THE SUN COME UP
ANYWAYS, I'M UP ON THE ROOF, LOOKIN' DOWN TO SEE HOW SHE LOOKS AND ALL, AND...
WELL, I LEFT THE KEY IN THE IGNITION AND WHEN I GET TO LOOKIN' DOWN...
...IT WAS GONE! GUIDO, HOW CAN ANYBODY GO THROUGH LIFE WITH A BRAIN ON AUTOMATIC PILOT?!
I ♥ NY
THEY STOLE MY CAR.
LOOK, I'VE GOT TO GET DRESSED AND OFF TO WORK. DR. ROSSI WANTS ME IN EARLY.
NO WAY! YOU AREN'T LEAVING ME WITH THIS BASKETCASE! I'VE GOT A SCRIPT TO FINISH!
BUT, BROTHER DEAR--
--YOU'LL BE HOME ANYWAY.
BESIDES, GUIDO ISN'T IN ANY MOOD TO MAKE CRACKS ABOUT YOUR LOOKS--ARE YOU, GUIDO?
THEY STOLE MY CAR...
I REST MY CASE. HE'S ALL YOURS.
REMEMBER, DENTON: GUIDO NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!
SO DOES THE UNITED WAY! CAN'T I GIVE AT THE OFFICE?

DENTON! 'JUST TRY TO PUT A LITTLE SUNSHINE IN GUIDO'S LIFE! HM?
SURE, SURE...
THAT GUY'S SO FRIED, A CASE OF SUNSTROKE WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT!
LATER...
DENTON.. THEY STOLE MY CAR...
klakety KLAK klakety
GUIDO, I HEARD YOU TELL THE POLICE, "THEY STOLE MY CAR." I HEARD YOU TELL YOUR INSURANCE MAN, "THEY STOLE MY CAR."
I HEARD YOU TELL YOUR FATHER, " THEY STOLE MY CAR."
AND THAT'S NOT COUNTING THE 411 TIMES YOU'VE TOLD ME, PERSONALLY.
NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, IN ORDER TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO BE NICE TO YOU, I HAVE TO LEAVE THE ROOM.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, DENTON.
LET ME GUESS. THEY STOLE YOUR CAR, RIGHT?
DON'T YOU SMELL IT? LEMONY-LIKE.
klacklack klackety klack-klack klackety
ROOM FRESHENER. MAZE KEEPS IT IN WITH HIS SOCKS.
I HAD ONE O' THEM!...SAME SMELL, SMILIN'-BUTTON FACE.. IT WAS IN MY =CHOKE=. MY...
OH, GOD...
...THEY STOLE MY CAR!
FLUMP!
GIVE ME STRENGTH!

IF ONLY I HAD TOOKEN THE KEYS...!
GUIDO, DO YOU SEE THIS MODEL? THIS IS SPLENDID PUP!
A STUPID LITTLE COMIC BOOK HERO. I WRITE STORIES ABOUT HIM.
SOME OF US DON'T HAVE FATHERS WHO WILL BUY US FANCY CARS. SOME OF US HAVE TO *WORK!*
I, FOR INSTANCE, HAVE A DEADLINE-- TODAY! AND IF YOU KEEP MOANING, I'M GOING TO HURL THIS MODEL AT YOUR THICK SKULL TO SHAKE UP THE GRAVEL IN THERE!
GEEZ, I'M SORRY, DENTON. YOU JUST DON'T UNNERSTAND. I'M IN *PAIN* HERE.
WRONG. YOU *ARE* A PAIN. STOP ACTING LIKE SOMEBODY *DIED!*
MY DAD, HE *GAVE* ME THE CAR. TRUSTED ME WITH IT.
EVEN HAD FATHER O'FLYNN *BLESS* IT--
--IN *ITALIAN!*
THE FATHER'LL HAVE A *FIT* WHEN HE HEARS HOW THE SINNERS HAVE... ST-ST-STOW--OH--
--GOD!
THEY *STOLE* MY *CAR!*
THAK!


LATER...
NO, THANKS. I CAN'T EAT NOTHING NOW.
I'M PUTTING OUT A PLATE FOR YOU ANYWAY, GUIDO. YOU NEED YOUR STRENGTH. IT'S SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALLS.
LEFTOVERS?! I HOPE YOU'RE AT LEAST MAKING FRESH SAUCE, KP!
WHY?
BECAUSE THAT MESS WE HAD LAST NIGHT WAS THE PITS! YOU AND YOUR "SECRET INGREDIENT"!
GRANOLA IS GOOD FOR YOU! WHAT'VE YOU GOT AGAINST HEALTH?
'EY, I WISH I COULD TAKE YOU GUYS OUT FOR LUNCH, BUT...
WE KNOW! THEY STOLE YOUR CARRRRRR.
GUIIII-DOOOO!
MAZE! DIDJA FIND IT?!
YES, I DID. IT'S--
ALL RIGHT, MAZE!
MAZE, ARE YOU SURE IT'S GUIDO'S CAR?
YES, DENTON. YOU BETTER COME, TOO. IT'S BEHIND THE FOOTBALL FIELD AT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL...
HERE'S KP WITH LUNCH. WHAT A PITY! GOTTA RUN, SIS. MMM-- SURE DOES SMELL EDIBLE, THOUGH.


THIS HAD BETTER BE GUIDO'S CAR! I'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THAT BIG GOOF SO I CAN FINISH MY SCRIPT.
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS DAY SO FAR HAS BEEN ONE COMPLETE--
-- DISASTER!
OH, MY...
GOD! HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?
WHAT...
...HAVE...
..THEY...
...DONE?!
DENTON...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT, MAZE. I UNDERSTAND.

THEY STRIPPED MY CAR!
GUIDO?
I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE WAY I ACTED THIS MORNING...
...I MEAN, I DIDN'T KNOW...I COULDN'T KNOW... I...
I'M SORRY, THAT'S ALL. I THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE FEELING...
...AND IT'S OKAY. IF YOU WANT TO, LIKE, CRY, GO AHEAD.
I WON'T TELL ANYBODY.
CRY? CRY?!
'EY, DENTON--
--IT'S JUST A CAR!
MY POP'LL GET ME ANOTHER ONE, POOCH-PUSS! DON'T SWEAT IT!
CRIPES-- SOMETIMES YOU'RE SUCH A WIMP!
THUD
IT'S IT!

'mazing man™
by BOB ROZAKIS & STEPHEN DeSTEFANO
"hygiene HI-JINKS"
GARY MARTIN-INKS
EVERYBODY ELSE-THE USUAL
--NO, MRS. MCCARTHY, I DON'T THINK DR. ROSSI WOULD WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MEDICAL INSURANCE COMPANY TO COVER THAT.
MRS. MCCARTHY, I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO SAY I DON'T THINK VELAMINTS IS A LEGITIMATE DENTAL EXPENSE, EITHER!
YES, MRS. MCCARTHY, I PROMISE I'LL ASK HIM. 'BYE.
YOU PROMISE YOU'LL ASK ME WHAT?
OH, NOTHING--JUST THAT VELAMINTS NONSENSE AGAIN.
WELL, MS. WATSON... IF THE PATIENT HAS SEVERE HALITOSIS AND IS UNDER TREATMENT BY A SPECIALIST...
YES, DOCTOR.
AND WHICH ONE OF THE LITTLE DARLINGS IS NEXT?
HOW'S YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE SO FAR?
BLUE DEVIL
ONE-THIRTY-TWO OVER EIGHTY-FOUR.
WELL, THEN, DOCTOR-- TAKE YOUR PICK!
HIIIII!

WH-WHOSE KID IS *THAT?!*

NO KID, DOC. THAT'S *'MAZING MAN*--

--CROSSING GUARD FOR THE NATION.

DO ME A FAVOR.

SAVE HIM FOR *LAST.*

YOU GOT IT, BOSS.

BARBIE RAND--YOU'RE NEXT!

ER, MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE SHOULD GO AHEAD OF US.

IF YOU SAY SO, MR. RAND. BUT YOU'VE ALREADY LET SIX PEOPLE GO AHEAD OF YOU...

WAAAAAH

. ME, I CAN THINK OF BETTER WAYS TO SPEND A DAY THAN SITTING IN A DENTIST'S OFFICE.

AND *I* GET *PAID* TO DO IT.

OKAY, NICKY-- YOU'RE ON

GO GET HIM, TIGER!

DR. ROSSI'S OFFICE...HELLO, MRS BERGSTROM...YES, MRS BERGSTROM...CALM DOWN, DEAR...WHAT?...WILLIE HAS A TOOTHACHE...I SEE... MM-HM...TSK-TSK. YES...YES...

..AND HOW *OLD* IS WILLIE, MRS. BERGSTROM? . SEVENTY-SEVEN?!

AH-- THAT'S IN *"DOGGIE YEARS"*!... I SEE...

KA-RASH

SPLUGSH

...LOOK, MRS. BERGSTROM, LET ME RECOMMEND A GOOD *VETERINARIAN*... YES, I *UNDERSTAND* WILLIE ISN'T JUST SOME *COMMON* DOG--

K-P!
COMING
OMIGOSH! WHERE DID HE STAB YOU?
WHAT?! WHAT?!
I'LL CALL AN AMBULANCE! ALL THAT BLOOD--!
BLOOD?! IT'S MOUTHWASH! HE DOESN'T LIKE THE TASTE OF MY MOUTHWASH!
IT'S YUCKY. PHOO!
JUST GET HIS MOTHER IN HERE, WILL YOU!?
MRS KANTAKIS!!
COME ON NOW, NICKY... I'M A DENTIST, NOT A FOOT DOCTOR.
WHATCHA DOING NOW, NICK-O? GIVING POOR DOC ROSSI A HARD TIME AGAIN?
CALM.. CALM.. GOTTA STAY CALM..
BREATHE DEEPLY..
READY? ONE... AND A-TWO.. AND-A--
-- THREE!
134 OVER 88 NOT BAD SO FAR

NOW, NICKY-- BE A GOOD BOY AND DOCTOR ROSSI WILL GIVE YOU A NICE LOLLIPOP! UNDERSTAND?!
STAY CALM THAT'S IT...
OH, NO, MRS. KANTAKIS! I NEVER HAND OUT LOLLIPOPS TO MY PATIENTS!
IGNORANT FOOL
PROMOTES TOOTH DECAY, YOU SEE
YOU NEVER HEARD OF SUGAR-FREE LOLLIPOPS, DOC?
WHAT KIND OF DENTIST ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
MS. WATSON--HEH--PLEASE, ORDER IN SOME SUGAR-FREE LOLLIPOPS!
CERTAINLY, DOCTOR
SPINELESS JERK
NOW, YOUNG MAN--LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THOSE MOLARS--HMM?
MMM-MNNN!

AM I NEXT, KP?
KEEP YOUR KETTLE ON, MAZE. WE'RE A LITTLE BACKED UP TODAY.
AH! MY PUBLIC CALLS.
DOCTOR ROSSI'S OFFICE.
YES, MR. BONFIGLIO
NO, MR. BONFIGLIO-- YOU PUT YOUR DENTURES WITH THE CLEANSER IN A GLASS.
YES, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU LIKE THE TINGLE WHEN YOU PUT THE CLEANSER RIGHT IN YOUR MOUTH, BUT THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WORKS.
YES, WELL, YOU TELL MRS. BONFIGLIO THAT DOCTOR ROSSI AGREES WITH HER. 'BYE.
I WANNA LOLLIPOP!
SHUT YOUR FACE!
OH, MISS WHAT-SOME-- HAVE THE LOLLIPOPS ARRIVED?
SORRY. IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE MINUTES SINCE I ORDERED THEM.
CAN I HAVE ONE DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME? OR SHALL WE HOLD IT TILL NICKY'S NEXT VISIT?
SPEAKING OF WHICH-- NICKY HAS FOURTEEN CAVITIES TO GO.
IS NEXT TUESDAY TOO SOON?
I WANNA LOLLIPOP! NOW!
AND DID YOU WANT TO PAY ANYTHING ON THE BALANCE-DUE TODAY, MRS. KANTAKIS?
I ALWAYS WAIT TILL THE WORK IS FINISHED.
I SEE.
LOLLIPOP! LOLLIPOP!
YOU SHUT UP OR I'LL SMACK YOU AGAIN!
THE TOOTH FAIRY'S GONNA FREAK WHEN SHE COMES CALLING ON YOU, NICKY-BOY!
SPLAT

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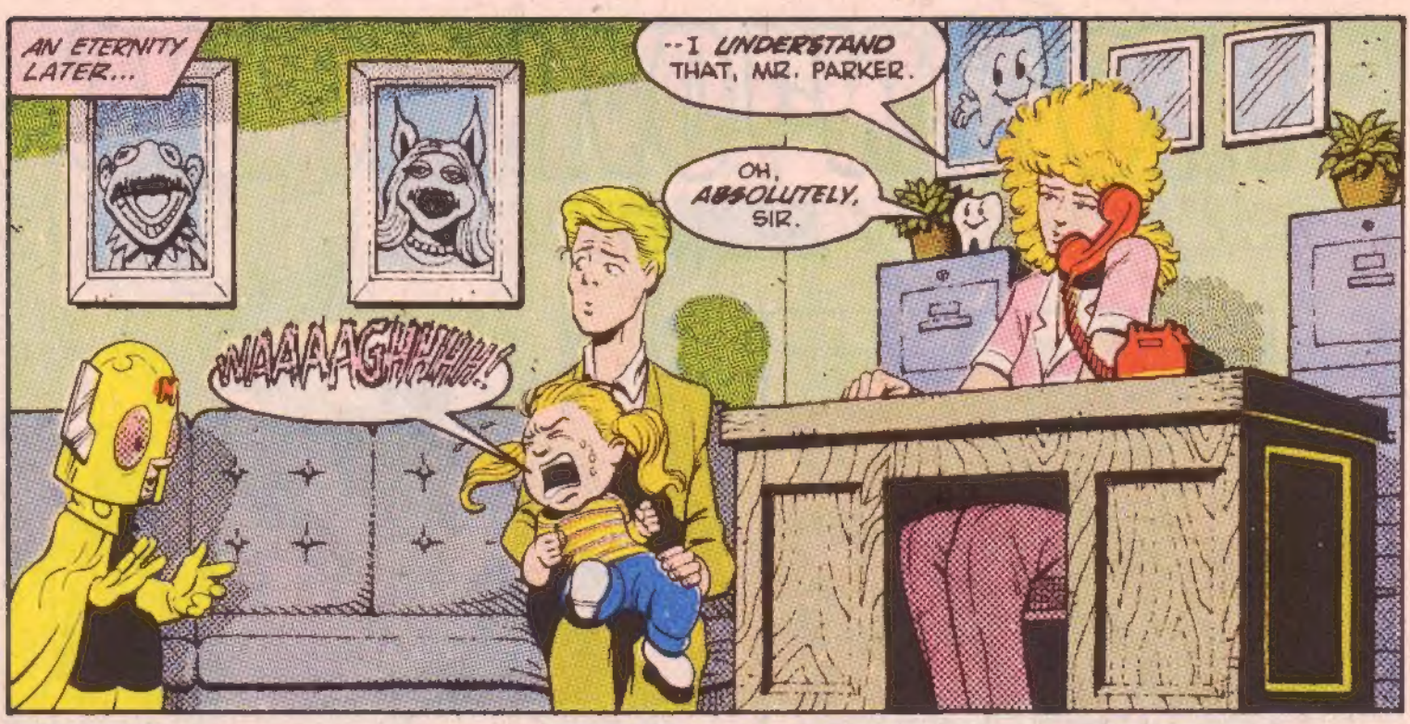
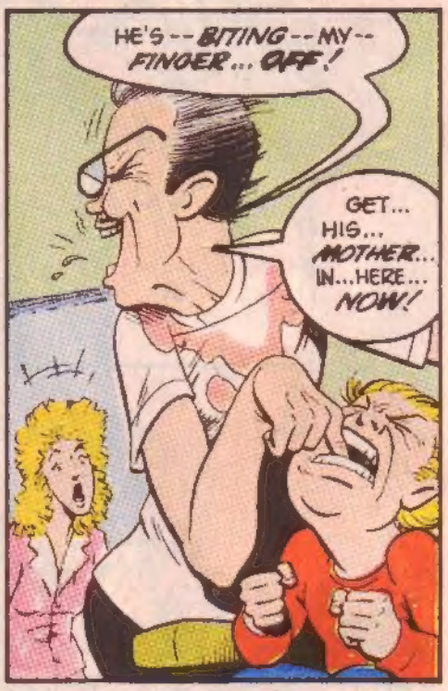
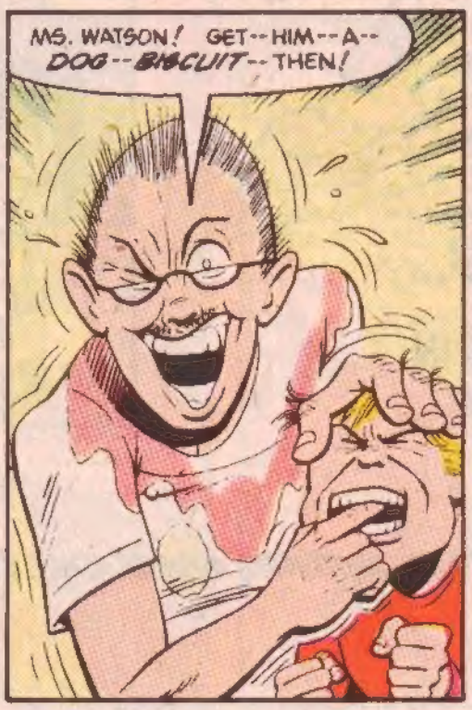

AN ETERNITY LATER...
--I UNDERSTAND THAT, MR. PARKER.
OH, ABSOLUTELY, SIR.
WAAAAGHHHH!

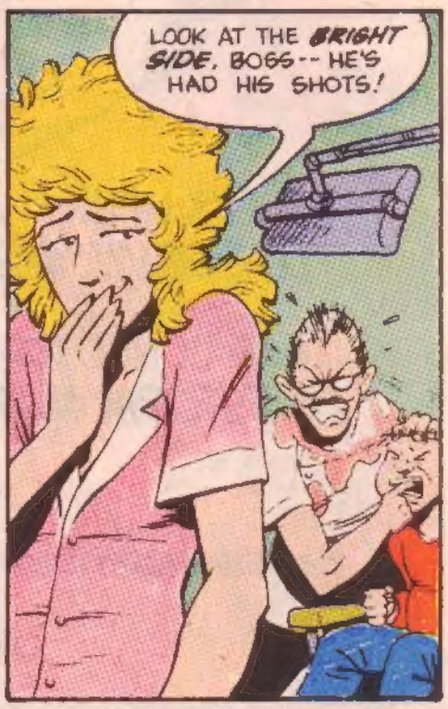
I'M SURE AN OLD COMIC BOOK DID SAY IT COULD HAPPEN--
--BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN TUNE ONE OF YOUR FILLINGS TO PICK UP THE RADIO STATION OF YOUR CHOICE!

YAGGHHHHHHHH! KAY-PEEEEE!!!
DOCTOR'S CALLING, MR. PARKER. GOTTA RUN. 'BYE.


HE'S--BITING--MY--FINGER... OFF!
GET... HIS... MOTHER... IN...HERE... NOW!

ER, I CAN'T. SHE WENT SHOPPING.
SOMETIMES STEVIE PRETENDS HE'S A DOG-- DON'T YOU, STEVIE?
RRRRRR!


MS. WATSON! GET--HIM--A--DOG--BISCUIT--THEN!


LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, BOGS-- HE'S HAD HIS SHOTS!

STILL LATER...
GOT TO HAND IT TO YOU, MAZE. I DIDN'T THINK BARBIE WAS EVER GOING IN THERE TODAY.
WHAT'D YOU TELL HER?
OH, NOTHING MUCH. JUST THAT I KNOW SHE'S PLANNING TO BE PRESIDENT SOMEDAY, SO SHE'D BETTER TAKE CARE OF HER TEETH. NOTHING MAKES IMPORTANT DECISIONS HARDER, YOU KNOW, THAN A NAGGING TOOTHACHE!
I FIBBED AND SAID DR. ROSSI'S SPECIALTY IS FUTURE PRESIDENTS' TEETH.
TOO BAD YOU CAN'T PULL A LITTLE STUNT LIKE THAT ON MY BROTHER!
YES. SIGH DENTON DOESN'T WANT TO BE PRESIDENT OF ANYTHING.
WELL... NBC, MAYBE.
OKAY, HERO. YOU'RE DR. ROSSI'S LAST VICTIM.
MAKE HIS DAY.
ER... KP?... MAYBE I BETTER COME BACK...
ZZZZZZZZZZ
...TOMORROW??

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

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Dick Giordano, Vice Pres.-Executive Editor
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Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director
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Dear Stephen & Bob,

I've just finished rereading 'MAZING MAN #1—it gets better every time I read it! The artwork is fresh and clean—kinda goes hand-in-hand with the story. (Sets the mood, if you know what I mean.) And the story itself is dynamite! I've read this book three or four times and still manage to find something new with each reading. (I've also had several fits of uncontrolled laughter—the neighbors think I'm nuts!)

The characters you've created are great! They have a certain spark of realism that makes you feel as if you've known them for a long time. Even Maze! I hope to see lots more of the supporting cast in upcoming issues (especially Eddie and Brenda—they remind me of the wife and me, always picking with each other).

I believe what you've got here is quite possibly the best comic of the '80s! You guys work wonders together—keep it up! And, uh ... *make mine 'Mazing!*

Randy Brown
2175 Spokane Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304

*****

Dear Alan and Company,

I always had a certain fear of writing to letters pages. This is due in feeling I will look foolish to the editors or thinking that my scribbling don't really make sense, but I decided to forgo all of this to write about 'MAZING MAN. This little fellow is great! I really like him a lot. My reasons are numerous, but simply put, he's really what a hero should be. I mean, here's a quaint person who would risk his life to help people while other people would rather not get involved. Now, I call that heroic, even if he appears a little foolish.

Another thing about Maze is that he's a good person. Things like insults don't really appear to faze him (it does appear, though, that he gets a little upset if his friends are angry with him—case in point, page nine). I really like the part where Maze stated that he didn't mind if nobody liked him, but that he still likes everyone. I like that attitude and wish other people felt the same way. I also like the fact that Maze seems so innocent and I hope he keeps it. I'm really impressed with him.

In my opinion, if you have a good lead character, then you have a pretty decent supporting cast. 'Mazing Man has a good group of friends, especially Mr. Denton Fixx. Denton is like a person I once knew (minus the beagle face). He's supportive and would stick up for his best friend in any situation. By the way, is Denton a good writer, and does he have trouble keeping a job? I just wondered.

Eddie and Brenda Valentine seem like your basic happy couple, and K.P. seems like your average older sister. As for Guido, there seems to be a character like him somewhere. He appears to be a perfect macho foil for 'Maze and Denton. I'm sure each will grow as the book continues.

The writing is very good and humorous. The art is also grand. I especially liked the facial expressions. The lettering and coloring were also good. Just an outstanding job.

Final words: I hope you guys have good luck, but I don't really think you need it. If this book was a sitcom, it would be in the top ten, maybe besting *The Cosby Show*. I can predict big things for 'MAZING MAN.

Oh, by the way, are Maze and Denton busy on Friday for lunch? Just wondered.

T.C. Cerezas
Muncie, IN

You'll get a sample of Denton's writing abilities starting in MM #7, T.C., when we start our six-issue back-up feature, BC Comics' thrilling repertory-adventure series, "The Very Fun Adventures of Zoot Sputnik," illustrated by another BC stalwart, Mr. Fred Hembeck.

*****

Dear Alan:

Polka-dot shorts? A dog-faced boy?!? Guido!?? I love it, give me more.

I want to write something bad about 'MAZING MAN, but I can't! Can you believe that? How can anybody criticize the little tyke, he's so, so, so "Aaronish." (Note: My friend, Aaron Ranta, resembles Maze's personality uncannily, thus I adopted the phrase "Aaronish." Now, I only hope Aaron doesn't sue me!)

Does Rozakis write everything, or does DeStefano write, too? 'Cause I don't usually like any of Rozakis' stories, but this time around I owe him an apology.

The art is 'mazing, especially Kesel's inking. Don't, I repeat, don't change the artists (unless, of course, you can get Marshall Rogers).

An Ambush Bug and/or Blue Devil crossover is imminent, so why not sooner than later? Oh, and what will happen in 'Mazing Man's annual? How about a fight over helmet rights with Doctor Polaris? And for his 50th-issue anniversary, 'Mazing Man could join the ranks of the Teen Titans or better yet he can set up his own group called the 'Mazing Mini-Titans!! Gosh, I can't wait.

Before I sign off, can I suggest " 'Mazing Missives" for the letters page?

Frank Krulicki
285 East 21st
N. Van, BC U7L 3B6
Canada

'MAZING MAN is a true collaboration, Frank. Bob and Stephen and I usually kick off each issue with a noisy brainstorming session over drumsticks and biscuits—we come up with the situations, work out a superabundance of business, and wrangle over characterizations. Bob goes home and types up a plot breakdown based on our exertions, and then Stephen and I pick his plot to pieces. When everyone's satisfied with the revised outline, Stephen does thumbnail layouts of the whole story—still playing fast and loose with business, if you must know, and suggesting a bucketful of dialogue and characterization. Bob then writes the official script, based on these layouts, and Stephen behaves himself and pencils the story.

As for crossovers ... see my comment to Philip A. Brady.

*****

Dear Alan, Stephen, and Bob:

When I first saw the advertisement for 'MAZING MAN, I thought that this would be another dumb funnybook. Then I saw a picture of the cover and I thought that it was even dumber. Then some questions came into my mind: How does this fit into DC continuity? Does it take place after or before the CRISIS? If it is before, will there be a CRISIS crossover? Is it on Earth-one or did DC waste time, money, and effort with destroying all parallel Earths just so another one can be introduced? And why have a character that looks like a dog? Well, anyway, I saw the first issue and decided to get it. I took it home, bagged it, and put it away. A couple of days later I took it out to read it and I must say it was a lot better than I thought. Now I have some more questions and requests. How old are Denton and 'Mazing Man? Does Maze have an alter ego? And what is 'Mazing Man's origin? Also, will you have guest stars in the book like Superman or Blue Devil? Because I have a list of characters that I think will work good with MM: Superman, Blue Devil, Ambush Bug, Kid Devil, Robin, and Batman. As for villain guest stars, you could use the Joker or the Trickster.

Well, anyway, keep up the good work and try to get the little guy in with some of the big characters of the DC Universe.

Philip A. Brady

Denton is 28 years old. Maze is a figure of absolute mystery, including his age. This is not your garden-variety comic, Philip. You will never see the alter-ego of Sigfried Horatio Hunch III. For all we know, he has none—and maybe never had any.

As for crossovers, well, I have possibly unsettling news for you. 'MAZING MAN does not take place in the greater DC Universe. There exist no Blue Devil, Green Lantern, Superman, Batman, or any other costumed protector in South Ozone Park, New York. If you need to locate 'MAZING MAN topographically, it's within biking distance of SUGAR 'N' SPIKE, and you can probably get to the

neighborhoods of PEANUTS and GARFIELD and even BLOOM COUNTY without a passport. MM presents a humorous view of life as it's really lived, you see. In a world admitting Robin and Ambush Bug, would an undersized, self-proclaimed, weirdly costumed protector of honest folk seem very peculiar? If it will help you, tell yourself that Maze and Denton live on what used to be called Earth-Prime before the CRISIS.

*****

Dear Editor,

[You will undoubtedly receive so many responses to the first fantastic issue of 'MAZING MAN that you will only have room to print excerpts. So...]

"'MAZING MAN!! Just what we need in comics now! No muties, no secret crises, no deaths, no nonsense!! (Well, maybe a little...)"

—Carleton Brown,
Professional Comics Critic

"Never read 'MAZING MAN at the dinner table. Your repeated laughter will bring crazed stares from family members."

—Carl K. Brown, *Better Food & Comics* magazine

"Denton is an excellent narrator! Do I sense the personality of one Bob Rozakis in Denton?"

—Dr. C.K. Brown,
Psychos 'R' Us

"Mr. DeStefano displays the perfect mixture of caricature and realism. You could not have found a better artist for this series."

—C. Brown, Drop-out,
School of Art & Design

"'MAZING MAN #1 was so delightful that I persuaded my only friend to try it. And when I let him out of the closet, he actually had a smile!"

—CKB, Somewhere
north of Queens

[Yeah, yeah, I know: "Pretty sneaky, kid!!" But do you understand that I think 'MAZING MAN is the greatest invention since staple-shiner?!]

Carleton Keith Brown
104 Cornell Street
Springfield, MA 01109

*****

'Mazingly Creative Guys:

Before me sits a copy of 'MAZING MAN #1. It is beginning to reach the end of its shelf life. We are talking one well-read comic here.

Without a doubt, 'Mazing Man is one of DC's finest new creations. He's touching, he's funny. He's no dummy, either. Despite outward appearances, the guy has it together.

Perhaps it's corny, but he does what he's gotta do. You can't help but respect that. So what if he's got a goofy costume? So what if he's a shrimp? So what if he does turn out to be crazy? Who cares?

The little guy's got heart. How many comics characters can you say that about these days.

Whether I'm misting over watching Maze save little Jonathan or laughing over the "perfect" marriage of the Valentines, and that lovely four-panel bit at the end of the story, this book reaches me on every level.

It's well-written (intellectual level). It's genuinely touching (emotional level). And reading it so many times is wearing out my page-turning hand (physical level).

What more can I say? 'MAZING MAN is simply 'mazing.

Carry on...

Sheldon A. Wiebe
11-12 Erin Dale Cr. S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2R2
Canada

*****

Dear Alan, Bob, and Stephen,

My reactions to 'MAZING MAN are overwhelmingly positive! You've brought an innocence to Maze that today's super-heroes have lost. It's nice to see a hero, a man of ordinary abilities, yet with enough innocent wisdom and compassion to make him lovable. This is the most innovative, unique new comics concept that I've seen in years. I've been enjoying Bob Rozakis' work for several years, my favorite being SUPERMAN—THE SECRET YEARS, yet Stephen DeStefano is relatively new to me. (He did some strips for HOUSE OF MYSTERY, didn't he?)

Your supporting cast is likable and very true-to-life, Denton being my favorite. I'm interested in 'Mazing Man's origin and true identity, but I wouldn't mind if you kept us speculating for a while. I have confidence that the spectacularly done first story will win a place in the 1986 "Year's Best Digest." Good luck in the future.

Fred deBoom
9372 Tidewater Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

P.S. Is 'MAZING MAIL too obvious a choice for the title of your letter column?

I'm holding out for another few months before I christen this lettercol, Fred. So far, 'MAZING MAIL is definitely in the lead. Stephen most certainly did contribute to HOUSE OF MYSTERY—remember "I, Baby Vampire"?

*****

Stephen, Bob, and Al,

I found 'MAZING MAN very 'musing.

Thank you.

Nathaniel Gertler
12 C Madison Dr.
Maple Shade, NJ 08052

*****

Thanks, too, to everyone else who wrote, including:

Gregory I. Barney
Christopher Brayshaw
Malcolm Bourne
Charles David Haskell
Steven J. Stepleman **(you just missed out on the CAPTAIN CARROT OZ-WONDERLAND WAR trilogy, Steven; maybe you can scout up the series in your local comic shop)**
Bruce Rogers
Them Bones **(now that you've seen a couple of issues of MM, T.B., you have no more misgivings, I hope)**
Willis Couvillier
Michael S. Webster
Peter De Santis

I have to get this letter column to the printer only a little over a week since 'MAZING MAN #1 reached the shops, so many of you are not going to see your letters in this issue. Don't give up hope—maybe next time!

Speaking of which...

NEXT ISSUE: With a deadline and a lot of bills, Denton just can't get his act together in "Writer's Block." So all his friends jam on an issue's worth of ... different stories. Along the way, Stephen and Karl are assisted on the art chores by José Luis Garcia-Lopez, Pablo Marcos, Joe Orlando, Denys Cowan, and Kurt Schaffenberger. (Wotta production! You think being an editor is so easy?)

See you then!

AL Gold

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